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CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Bernau

EVALUATION

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DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

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1. On 31 December 1953, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne at Bernau was occupied by 2,000 to 2,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. There was an increased training activity. Four T-34/85 tanks left the installation for driving practice at the training grounds where up to 300 troops received infantry training daily. Groups of 24 to 30 EM have repeatedly been seen at drill and other soldiers at aiming practice with about 5 x 57-mm AT guns at the installation.

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2. On 31 December, the army clothing depot No I was occupied by 2,500 to 3,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, some wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Soldiers were observed practicing with 6 x 100-mm AT guns, and 2 x 57-mm AT guns; and at a driving school with prime movers. Columns up to 60 EM and trucks occupied by soldiers left for field training daily.

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3. On 31 December, there was no change in the occupation of the SS Brieftaubenstation. Four AA guns of 76-mm were still in the old emplacement. Soldiers were engaged in gun drill and close-order drill. No motor vehicle traffic was observed.

4. On 31 December, the premises of the former factory on Berliner Strasse were occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia, and some wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. Groups of up to 60 EM have repeatedly been observed leaving the installation for field training.

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5. On 21 December, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne was occupied to capacity. On 14 December, about 30 EM constructed vehicle sheds surrounded by a wooden fence in the billeting area on the autobahn. On 15 December, three canvas-covered T-34/85 tanks were seen in the billeting area and, on 18 December, soldiers constructed obstacle courses on either side of the northern gate. On 21 December, vehicles leaving the installation toward Bernau numbered 10 tanks

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at about 11:30 a.m., T-34/85 tank and sedan and, at noon, 5 six-wheel armored personnel carriers which probably were new. Another six-wheel armored personnel carrier entered the installation some time later.

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6. On 21 December, the army clothing depot No I was occupied to capacity. [redacted] all wooden garages were fully occupied by [redacted] trucks towing AT guns probably of 57-mm. Twenty-five trucks were standing in front of a garage, and 11 trucks at the fuel dump. On 15 December, 60 to 80 EM did maintenance work on vehicles, and, on 16 December, about 120 EM, probably recruits, were seen at drill.¹ 25X1
7. On 21 December, the SS Brieftaubenstation was occupied.¹
8. Between 10 a.m. and noon on 20 December [redacted] trucks hauling briquettes from the Bernau railroad station [redacted] 25X1
9. Between 12 and 21 December [redacted] up to May 1954, officers' dependents would arrive at Bernau. Officers' residences were to be constructed on Toulfalsfuhl in front of clothing depot No II.
10. On 5 January, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets some with tank and artillery insignia. Between 27 December and 5 January, [redacted] in the billeting area about 20 T-34 tanks, 1 SU-85, 20 x 57-mm AT guns, 11 x 76-mm AT guns, and 8 x 120-mm mortars. On 30 December, about 50 EM were engaged in close-order drill while other soldiers did firing practice with light machine guns at the target range. On 5 January, about 80 EM were seen at close-order drill and tank training. [redacted] Between 27 December and 7 January, the construction of six obstacle courses and vehicle sheds was seen in the billeting area.¹ 25X1
11. On 5 January, the restricted area on Karl Marx Strasse was occupied by 60 to 80 soldiers. No training activity was observed. On 30 December and 5 January, only traffic of orderlies was seen. [redacted] 25X1
12. On 5 January, the army clothing depot No I was occupied by about 1,200 troops, some with artillery insignia. Between 28 December and 5 January, about 30 AT guns of 76-mm and 57-mm, and 8 AT guns probably of 85-mm, were seen in the billeting area. On 27 December, 8 [redacted] tank trucks entered the installation, and, on 29 December, 3 tank cars arrived at the billeting area on the sidings. On 5 January, about 100 EM with red-bordered black epaulets practiced with eight aiming circles near the installation. No vehicle traffic was observed. Probably 300 to 350 motor vehicles were parked in the barracks yard. Three obstacle courses were constructed; and two antenna masts were erected on the roof of the guardhouse.¹ 25X1
13. On 5 January, the SS Brieftaubenstation was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia. Seven AA guns of 37-mm were seen in the billeting area. On 28 December, soldiers practiced with 37-mm AA guns and, on 4 January, with six machine guns. [redacted] 25X1
14. On 5 January, a briefing for about 20 field grade officers, mostly lieutenant colonels and colonels, was held at the Bernau komendatura. [redacted] 25X1
15. [redacted] the castle was to be the residence of High Commissioner Semonov. Soldiers stationed at the castle were said to have been replaced recently.

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- [redacted] 25X1
16. On 5 December, flatcars carrying six rocket launchers [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] were attached to a regular freight train at the Bernau
freight station. The train left toward Eberswalde. [redacted] 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment. Except for fluctuations in the strength estimate, the 25X1
occupation at Bernau has not changed since mid-December 1953. [redacted] 25X1

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